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What is claimed is:

1. A method of treating and preventing inflammatory disorders and related conditions which comprises applying a topical composition comprising an effective amount of an extract of feverfew to a patient.
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2. The method of claim 1 where said inflammatory disorders or related condition is a disorder or related condition of the skin.
- 10 3. The method of claim 1 where said extract is substantially free of α -unsaturated γ -lactone.
4. The method of claim 1 where said extract is substantially free of α -unsaturated γ -lactone and said inflammatory disorder or related condition is a disorder or related condition of the skin.
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5. The method of claim 3 where said α -unsaturated γ -lactone is parthenolide.
6. The method of claim 3 where said effective amount of said extract is from about 0.005% to about 10%.
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7. The method of claim 6 where said extract has a parthenolide concentration of from about 0 to about 0.2%.
- 25 8. The method of claim 4 where said extract further comprises flavanoid compounds.
9. A topical composition useful in the treatment and prevention of inflammatory disorders or related conditions comprising an effective amount of an extract of feverfew and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.
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10. The composition of claim 8 where said extract is substantially free of α -unsaturated γ -lactone.